

Sermon Questions from *The Path*
"Hope - next year; things will be different!"
Series: A Life-Giving Christmas

In what ways do you prepare for Christmas during Advent? How much is about Jesus and how much is about the trappings of Christmas? How do the trappings of Christmas help us focus on Jesus?

Read Isaiah 9:1-8. What is the hope Isaiah speaks of? How did Jesus fulfill that hope? Why do you think God chose to send His own Son into the world as a baby? In what other "unexpected" ways does God choose to act?

Advent is a time of preparing for Christ's coming into the world, what does Advent say about the Second Coming? (What is the second coming of Jesus?) How would you prepare for the "second" advent?

Read Romans 13:11-14. What is Paul saying about the Second Coming of Jesus and how we are to be prepared? What kinds of things might some Christians want to change if they knew Jesus was coming to their house this afternoon?

If hope means, "next year things will be different," what changes might come in a person's life? What does it mean to be "clothed with the presence of Jesus Christ"?

When have you been at a place of hopelessness in your life? How did you get through it? How has Jesus Christ brought hope into your world?

If you have found hope in Christ, how might you be hope to someone else? (If someone has not written a prayer of hope for themselves or another, invite them to do so at this time.)

One thing members of *The Path* will be doing is collecting money to buy one or more pigs or a cow for a woman in poverty in Cambodia to be hope. What other things might we do to be hope during Advent?